



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - December 21, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Fri, Dec 21, 2018 at 9:17 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

December 21, 2018

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP photos](#)

[AP books](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[The AP Store](#)

[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Today's Connecting brings the sad news of the death of **Peter Alan Harper**, a business writer in New York for most of his 15 years with the AP.

He died on Dec. 13. Peter began his AP career in the Kansas City bureau and I enjoyed working with him for his year there until transferring to New York.

We also bring you news of retirement plans for **Karen Magnuson**, who will leave the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle on Jan. 2 after serving 18 years as executive editor.

Karen ([Email](#)) served as president of the Associated Press Managing Editors in 2007 when the organization's members conferenced in Washington, D.C. and as president of its fundraising arm, the Associated Press Managing Editors Foundation the following year. During her tenure, the *Democrat and Chronicle* was honored with the national Robert G. McGruder Award for Diversity Leadership in 2013, named for another past APME President. Magnuson won the award in 2009 for her individual efforts to champion diversity in the *D&C* newsroom and the Rochester area.

Finally, my thanks to the many of you who spotted an error in Thursday's edition relating to me and the look-alike Santa identified as Chevy Chase. Wrote LA's **John Rogers**, "That's a great doppelganger Santa photo but the caption requires a small corrective. Dan Aykroyd wore the Santa suit in 'Trading Places,' not Chevy Chase."

At least no one mistook me for Billy Bob Thornton, star of "Bad Santa"!

Have a great weekend!

Paul

Peter Alan Harper, former AP New York business writer, dies at 68

Peter Alan Harper, who worked for the AP in New York as a national business writer and newsman, has died. He was 68.

Harper, who died Dec. 13, started his AP career in Kansas City in 1984 after nearly four years as a reporter for the Memphis Commercial-Appeal. He moved to AP New York a year later as a transportation and labor reporter, according to his LinkedIn page. He covered the city's fiscal crisis and

worked as weekend supervisor, broadcast supervisor and writer, and on-air reporter for AP Radio Network.

He became a national business writer in 1992, covering bankruptcy, minorities in business and the New York City economy. He earned a Knight-Bagehot Fellowship in business and economic reporting at Columbia University during the 1994-95 academic year.

After leaving the AP in 2000, he was self-employed as a journalism, writer, author and aspiring voice-over actor in the Greater New York City area. He said on his LinkedIn page: "I'm a performing poet who loves the arts, current events, discussions, exploring new worlds, Africa, and museum and gallery hopping."



1993 photo, AP Corporate Archives

D&C's Karen Magnuson steps down after 18 years as top editor

Karen Magnuson, who has been executive editor of the (Rochester) Democrat and Chronicle for 18 years, will step down Jan. 2.

Magnuson, 61, voluntarily accepted an early retirement package from Gannett Co. Inc., which operates the USA TODAY NETWORK and owns the Rochester news operation. The newsroom's digital leader, Scott Norris, will oversee the newsroom until a successor is named.

She will serve as an executive in residence at Rochester Institute of Technology's Saunders College of Business as she weighs options for "rewiring" her career.



"I have had the pleasure of working with an amazing newsroom here in Rochester for 19 years. We've been through a lot together," she said. "We have seen a lot of

change together and we have achieved amazing things despite many of the challenges that we faced.

"I think it's time, however, for me to pursue a second career and for other fine leaders in this company to pick up the baton and carry forward."

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

A judge's quote he won't forget: "Brother Dummar, I think you're lying."

John Willis ([Email](#)) - It's not often that covering court cases will produce enduring quotes from the judge, but that's just what happened the other day in DC when US District Judge Emmet Sullivan told former national security adviser and retired general Michael Flynn that he (Flynn) had sold out his country.

Some day, Flynn's obituary will probably include that quote.

Sullivan was appointed to the bench by President Reagan.

The drama in Sullivan's comments really captured the moment, and it reminded me of a day in Las Vegas in 1977 when a state judge gave us a marvelous lede in a hearing about the infamous Mormon Will. As VG correspondent in those days, I had to keep tabs on many different aspects of the late Howard Hughes' estate, and the Mormon Will was the most prominent.

Before the actual trial to determine the validity of the document started, I was transferred to Spokane, but I spent hundreds of hours in pre-trial hearings in the Las Vegas courtroom presided over by Judge Keith Hayes. Hayes was a state judge, and had been diagnosed with cancer in 1973, I believe. He underwent chemo and other treatments until his death in November 1979, but he never mentioned his illness in court when I was present. He was a Mormon.

As most will remember, a young gas station operator named Melvin Dummar was named as one of many beneficiaries in a hand written "will" that showed up at the Mormon Church HQ in Salt Lake City. Melvin said he had no idea how his name got there, but that he had picked up a derelict in the desert some years earlier and gave him a ride to Las Vegas. To the Sands Hotel, if memory serves. Dummar, also a Mormon, couldn't say for sure, but he believed the derelict to be Howard Hughes.



Melvin Dummar

Dummar said he had no idea how the "will" got to the church in Salt Lake. A small army of attorneys representing the alleged beneficiaries of the so-called "Mormon Will" battled another cadre of attorneys representing the estate. The case dragged on and on, as supposed witnesses came out of the woodwork in the pre-trial hearings. They all trooped off to Alaska at one point when some guy up there claimed he could verify Dummar's story.

The courtroom where it all played out in downtown Las Vegas was round and very modernistic. Hayes sat in his chair on the bench, high above the floor where the witness stand (also circular) sat off to his left with a spotlight overhead. You can't make up this stuff. The jury box was on the other side of the witness stand from the bench, and the attorneys had their tables on the floor in front of the bench. During the pre-trial hearings, Hayes allowed reporters and sketch artists to sit in the jury box so there would be more room for those interested to watch from the regular courtroom seats. It was all a little "Star Trekish" in appearance, to me.

Dummar was finally called in as a witness and was grilled by both sides on his story. He looked so lonely to me, sitting there in that little circle with the light shining down. He remained calm through all of it, though. When both sides had finished their questioning, Judge Hayes looked down at Dummar, and asked him if he would like to change any part of his pre-trial testimony because going to trial would be at a huge cost in both time and money for all involved.

Dummar was meek, but stood firmly on his story. Hayes leaned back in his chair and then came forward, looking down at Dummar, he said:

"Brother Dummar, I think you're lying."

That was all I needed. I bolted out a side door normally used by jurors and headed for the pay phone to dictate the lede to LA, and out the story went.

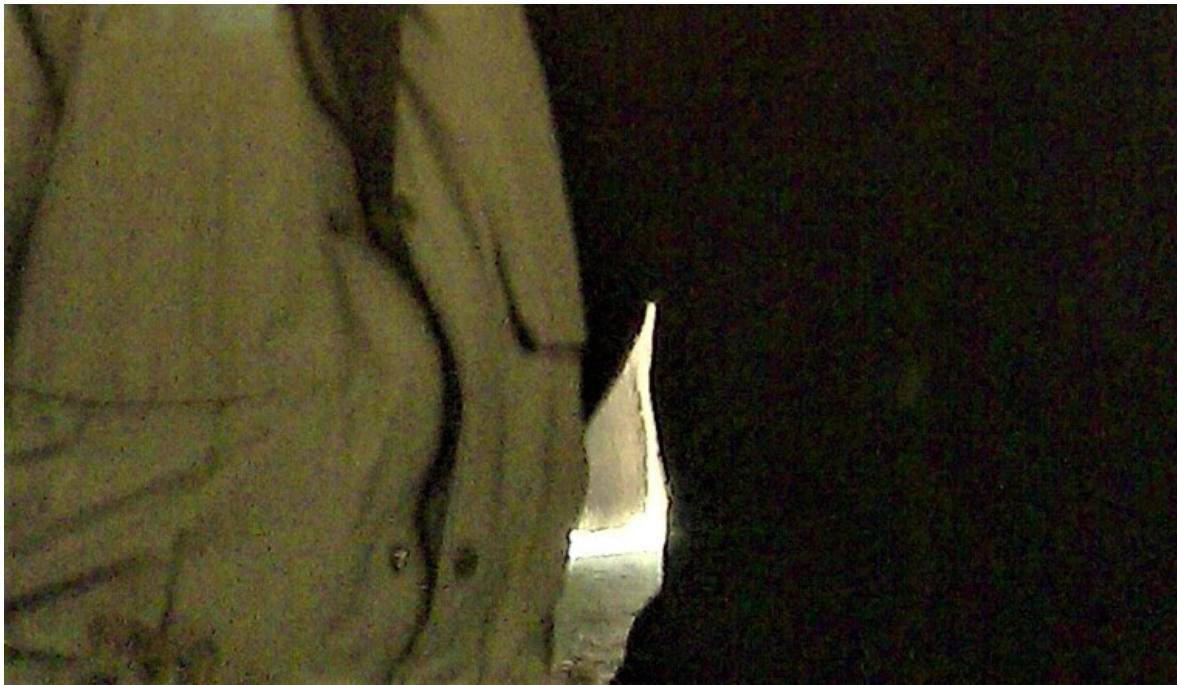
The trial was handled by my successor, and the jury returned the verdict I had expected all along. The Moron Will was not penned by Howard Hughes.

Dummar died of cancer complications in Pahrump, NV, on Dec. 9, according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal. He never changed his story.

-0-

Memories of 50 Rock: A special place to work





Mark and Mary Mittelstadt

Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - I began working at 50 Rock in August 2000. Within months my parents decided to visit and wanted to see where I worked. They even thought it would be fun to ride New Jersey Transit with me on my way in and back out to the Princeton Junction train station.

These were people in their mid-70s who had spent their entire lives in Iowa. I was a tad apprehensive, thinking they'd be back to my fourth-floor office in a couple hours ready to be taken to Penn Station and shown how to get back to the Garden State. As each hour passed, though, I grew concerned. Did they get lost? Did something happen? A medical emergency?

Around 4 p.m. they returned, thrilled and excited as any visitor might be. They had walked all through Rockefeller Center, around mid-town, gone through Saks Fifth Avenue, St. Patrick's Cathedral, had lunch at the basement cafe overlooking the skating rink (which they observed was way over-priced.) They also sat and watched skaters rehearsing for an upcoming TV special and talked to Michelle Kwan.

It was a trip that came up in Mittelstadt family conversation for years.

Rockefeller Center was a special place to work. I've always been fascinated by architecture, and my wife is a fan of Art Deco. I was in awe of the history and construction of the center, considered one of the greatest projects of the Great Depression era. We took several tours and were intrigued not only by its background but by the multiple works of art, large and small, built throughout the complex.

The holiday decorations, Christmas tree lighting and annual Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall brought hundreds of thousands of tourists. During the last couple months of the year it frequently was difficult to leave the AP building and navigate through the throngs to get to the train station. Turn right outside the front door and you were likely to photobomb snapshots of people visiting the tree. Turn left and you might run into camels or sheep being kept outside before being taken on stage at Radio City.

It was impossible to leave 50 Rock at street level starting at mid-afternoon the day of the tree lighting. Guards blocked the entrances because of the large crowds gathering on the Plaza for the performances and events that night. To get to subways or trains home you learned to take the hallways and passages below the building to get out of the Rockefeller Center area.



But why leave when there were unofficial, in-house parties to attend? The executive editor's corner office on the fourth floor had the closest view of the tree-lighting activities and many families watched from there. However, as Margy McCay noted in Wednesday's Connecting, other gatherings were scattered throughout the building, some with better views of the whole tree and rink concourse. Personnel was one. Kelly Smith Tunney's CorpComm office was another.

Activities throughout the year kept going to work part of an enjoyable experience: the Taste of New York with food vendors literally outside the 50 Rock door; the Louis Vuitton display of classic (and really expensive) cars; the Friday morning concerts on the plaza at NBC; sculpture, including a very large rabbit made from plants and flowers.

-0-

Kansas City retirees share laughter, memories



The recent annual Kansas City retirees luncheon produced holiday good cheer and lots of fond memories. Pictured, front to back along left wall: Mary Veach, Mercer Bailey, Peg Coughlin, Paul Stevens; Front to back in middle: Cliff Schiappa, Shelba Zimmerman; Front to back along right wall: Steve Crowley, Cathy Curran, Tim Curran (glasses), Jim Bagby (plaid shirt) and Kent Zimmerman.

-0-

Most Unusual dateline: Precede Katmandu

Carl P. Leubsdorf ([Email](#)) - My most unusual dateline occurred on a 1970 Asian trip with then Vice President Spiro Agnew. After spending the night in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu, the VP had some sort of event in an obscure nearby town. That enabled me to file a lead PRECEDE KATMANDU, with the dateline of this unpronounceable place.

Then, there was the time my wife, Susan Page, and I were both writing about an Iowa congressional race and I spotted a town that would be the perfect dateline: Independence, Iowa. Unfortunately, I discovered that night it had been redistricted out of the district, so none of the interviews could be used. I spent the night with a very unhappy reporter-and wife.

-0-

Most unusual dateline: Nameless, Tennessee

John Nolan ([Email](#)) - As Chattanooga correspondent in the early 1980s, I learned of a rural Tennessee community called Nameless. So, naturally, I found an excuse to go out there and do a story.

My research and interviews with a few locals and the Postal Service produced a few theories about how the moniker Nameless came about, but no definitive explanation.

My story ran in several Tennessee member newspapers. After that (fittingly), Nameless returned to its prior state of complete obscurity.

-0-

Pre-retirement festivities held for Bob Graves



Colleagues of Bob Graves of Chicago Photos had a little pre-retirement celebration at Bob's last Bears regular season game on Sunday.

A bureau gathering will be held at 2 pm on Friday, Jan 11, and the next day, Bob's family is hosting a retirement party from 6:30pm til 11:00pm at American Legion in Elmhurst, Illinois.

Bob is retiring after a 51-year AP career.

-0-

Dan Biles, Kansas Supreme Court justice and former AP newsman, to teach as adjunct at Kansas State University

Dan Biles ([Email](#)), a justice on the Kansas Supreme Court and a former AP newsman, will be teaching Communications Law at the Kansas State University journalism school next semester twice a week as an adjunct. (He will remain on the Supreme Court.)



He said he will teach next spring and the fall of 2019 and that he welcomed the interaction with students. "When I was with AP and the attorney general's office, I taught Media Law as an adjunct for the law school. Things have changed though," he said. Biles said he would teach two back-to-back sections with 40 students each. "Both sections are full right now, but I don't take that personally because it is a required course to graduate," he said.

Before becoming a practicing attorney, Biles was a reporter for the AP Topeka bureau, under Correspondent Lew Ferguson, from 1975 to 1980. He graduated from Law School in 1978. Biles joined the Kansas Attorney General's Office from 1980 to 1985 before entering into private practice. He was appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court in 2009.

He is a graduate of Washburn University School of Law and Kansas State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism in 1974. He was also an adjunct professor of law at Washburn Law School teaching courses in communications law and trial techniques.

AP investigations editor named as founding Howard Center executive editor



By Al Tompkins. Poynter

Arizona State University has hired veteran investigative reporting editor Maud Beelman as the head of the new Scripps Howard Foundation's Howard Center at ASU. The Center will be the nation's first Master's Degree program for investigative reporting.

Beelman is the U.S. investigations editor for the Associated Press. Prior to that, she served as deputy managing editor for projects at the Dallas Morning News.

From 2004 to 1997, she was the founding director of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. ICIJ launched by the Center for Public Integrity was the first global network of investigative reporters. Under her leadership it grew to a network of more than 90 journalists in 45 countries. The team designing and delivering award-winning international investigations.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright. Click [here](#) for the Arizona State University news release.

AP Exclusive: Facebook removes fake Bangladesh news sites



An employee at a photography institute checks his Facebook account in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018. Facebook is shutting down a series of fake news sites spreading false information about the Bangladesh opposition days before national elections, a top security official with the global social media platform said Thursday. The sites _ nine Facebook pages designed to mimic legitimate news outlets, as well as six fake personal accounts spreading anti-opposition propaganda _ were created by Bangladeshis associated with the government, Nathaniel Gleicher, Facebook's head of cybersecurity policy, told the AP in an exclusive interview. (AP Photo)

By JULHAS ALAM

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) - Facebook is shutting down a series of fake news sites spreading false information about the Bangladesh opposition days before national elections, an official from the social media platform told The Associated Press.

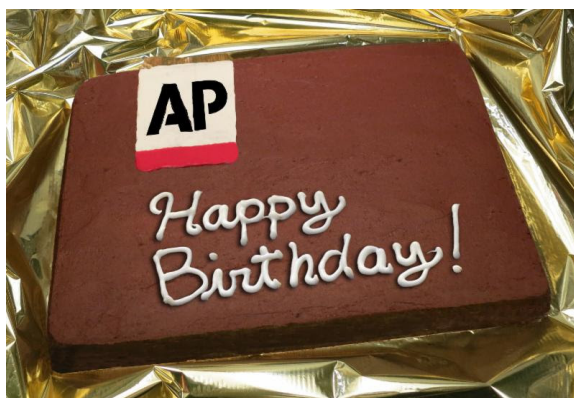
The sites - nine Facebook pages designed to mimic legitimate news outlets, as well as six fake personal accounts spreading anti-opposition propaganda - were created by Bangladeshis with government ties, Nathaniel Gleicher, Facebook's head of cybersecurity policy, said in an exclusive interview.

The sites would be shut down "for engaging in coordinated inauthentic behavior" by Thursday evening at the latest, he said by telephone from California.

A threat intelligence company that Facebook worked with determined that the people who created and managed the sites are "associated with the government," he said, declining to provide further details.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Rik Stevens - rikstevens1220@gmail.com

On Saturday to...

Otto Doelling - odoelling@hotmail.com

Beth Grace - bgrace9992@aol.com

Tom Throne - tathrone@yahoo.com

On Sunday to...

Donna Bryson - donna@innoabrd.com

Stories of interest

Newsonomics: 18 lessons for the news business from 2018 (Nieman)

By **KEN DOCTOR**

We live in transgressive, new-Orwellian times. Fact has been subverted by forces beyond our imagination, both newly minted and old school. Truth, elusive truth, is now in the mind of the subscriber. Yes, it is subscribers, along with their digital payments, who are transforming what's working best among news-originating companies today and laying the groundwork for the early 2020s. With 2019 nearly upon us, we can look at the year past and see a tired decade dragging to a close, with few winners, numerous strugglers, and caravans of losers.

Facebook has fallen flatter on its face, The Social Network is in danger of becoming a social disease. Google maintains its primacy, even as its CEO is called to Capitol Hill to explain how the current president's name somehow appears when "idiot" is typed into its engine.

Greed isn't just good in the minds of many - it's the long-term strategy for some who've somehow gotten a hold of the only business framed in the First Amendment. Phone companies spend billions on "content" properties and then mark them down (and out) like Kmart bluelight specials. Press gets kicked out of the White House - for asking questions. Even the anachronistic White House Correspondents Dinner can't break a smile. We require, at a minimum, Mencken, Hunter S. Thompson, and Tom Wolfe to best reflect on these idiocies of the moment, but they're in short supply.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

German journalist admits to fabricating 2017 article on Fergus Falls (Star-Tribune)

By **KELLY SMITH**

A German journalist who trekked to Fergus Falls, Minn., to profile a rural Midwest community after President Donald Trump's inauguration wrote that he was greeted at the city limits by a sign that read: "Mexicans Keep Out."

Problem is, the sign reporter Claas Relotius described in his March 2017 article in Der Spiegel, a German language news magazine, never existed. Some of the quotes in the story were made up, too, as were some of the anecdotes - from a brewery hosting a Super Bowl viewing party (the brewery was closed that day) to the city administrator hosting a "Game of Thrones" quiz night (the city leader said he doesn't even own a TV).

On Wednesday, Der Spiegel disclosed that Relotius, an award-winning reporter, confessed to fabricating at least 14 articles out of the nearly 60 he wrote since 2011, including the descriptive article about Fergus Falls.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Randy Evans.

Today in History - December 21, 2018



By **The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 2018. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter arrives at 5:23 p.m. Eastern time.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 21, 1891, the first basketball game, devised by James Naismith, is believed to have been played at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts. (The final score of this experimental game: 1-0.)

On this date:

In 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Massachusetts.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman concluded their "March to the Sea" as they captured Savannah, Georgia.

In 1913, the first newspaper crossword puzzle, billed as a "Word-Cross Puzzle," was published in the New York World.

In 1937, Walt Disney's first animated feature, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," had its world premiere at the Carthay Circle Theater in Los Angeles. The first Dr. Seuss book, "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street," was published by Vanguard Press.

In 1945, U.S. Army Gen. George S. Patton, 60, died in Heidelberg, Germany, 12 days after being seriously injured in a car accident.

In 1967, Louis Washkansky, the first human heart transplant recipient, died at a hospital in Cape Town, South Africa, 18 days after receiving the donor organ. The satirical comedy-drama "The Graduate," starring Anne Bancroft and Dustin Hoffman, was released by Embassy Pictures.

In 1968, Apollo 8 was launched on a mission to orbit the moon.

In 1969, Vince Lombardi coached his last football game as his team, the Washington Redskins, lost to the Dallas Cowboys, 20-10.

In 1976, the Liberian-registered tanker Argo Merchant broke apart near Nantucket Island off Massachusetts almost a week after running aground, spilling 7.5 million gallons of oil into the North Atlantic.

In 1988, 270 people were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a Pan Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, sending wreckage crashing to the ground.

In 1991, eleven of the 12 former Soviet republics proclaimed the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the death of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In 2002, President George W. Bush received a smallpox vaccination, fulfilling a promise he'd made when he ordered inoculations for about a-half million U.S. troops.

Ten years ago: A multi-faith ceremony was held to mark the reopening of Mumbai, India's Oberoi hotel three weeks after it was targeted in a militant rampage. Detroit became the first 0-15 team when it was routed 42-7 by the New Orleans Saints. Playwright Dale Wasserman, who'd written the book for the Tony-winning musical "Man of La Mancha," died in Paradise Valley, Ariz. at age 94.

Five years ago: Director of National Intelligence James Clapper declassified more documents outlining how the National Security Agency was first authorized to start collecting bulk phone and Internet records in the hunt for al-Qaida terrorists and how a court eventually gained oversight of the program. Gunfire hit three U.S. military aircraft trying to evacuate American citizens in a remote region of South Sudan that had become a battleground between the country's military and renegade troops. Edgar M. Bronfman Sr., 84, the billionaire businessman and longtime president of the World Jewish Congress, died in New York.

One year ago: The U.N. General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to denounce President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, largely ignoring Trump's threat to cut off aid to any country that went against him. Vice President Mike Pence arrived in Afghanistan for a secret meeting with Afghan leaders and a visit with U.S. troops. Papa John's announced that founder John Schnatter would step down as CEO; the company had apologized for his comments criticizing the NFL leadership over protests by players who knelt during the national anthem.

Today's Birthdays: Talk show host Phil Donahue is 83. Actress Jane Fonda is 81. Actor Larry Bryggman is 80. Singer Carla Thomas is 76. Musician Albert Lee is 75. Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas is 74. Actor Josh Mostel is 72. Actor Samuel L. Jackson is 70. Rock singer Nick Gilder is 68. Movie producer Jeffrey Katzenberg is 68. Actor Dennis Boutsikaris is 66. Singer Betty Wright is 65. International Tennis Hall of Famer Chris Evert is 64. Actress Jane Kaczmarek is 63. Country singer Lee Roy Parnell is 62. Entertainer Jim Rose is 62. Former child actress Lisa Gerritsen is 61. Actor-comedian Ray Romano is 61. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is 56.

Country singer Christy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 56. Rock musician Murph (The Lemonheads; Dinosaur Jr.) is 54. Actor-comedian Andy Dick is 53. Rock musician Gabrielle Glaser is 53. Actress Michelle Hurd is 52. Actor Kiefer Sutherland is 52. Actress Karri Turner is 52. Actress Khristyne Haje is 50. Country singer Brad Warren (The Warren Brothers) is 50. Actress Julie Delpy is 49. Country singer-musician Rhea (rehn) Boyer (Carolina Rain) is 48. Contemporary Christian singer Natalie Grant is 47. Actor Glenn Fitzgerald is 47. Singer-musician Brett Scallions is 47. World Golf Hall of Famer Karrie Webb is 44. Rock singer Lukas Rossi (Rock Star Supernova) is 42. Actress Rutina Wesley is 40. Rock musician Anna Bulbrook (Airborne Toxic Event) is 36. Country singer Luke Stricklin is 36. Actor Steven Yeun is 35. Actress Kaitlyn Dever is 22.

Thought for Today: "Winter comes but once a year, And when it comes it brings the doctor good cheer." - Ogden Nash, American humorist (1902-1971).

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.



Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™ pjshane@gmail.com

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try it free today